



THE SIGNS THEY ARE A CHANGIN’



Honoring Father Sammon at St. Teresa’s Church are (from left): Rose Marie Ostler, Sister Kathleen Healy, Sister Lucia Lodolo, Father Ed Murray, Supervisor Sophie Maxwell, and Representative Nancy Pelosi. See story on page 3.

Lester Zeidman photo

Power Plant Saga Continues

By John Borg

The ongoing saga of fossil fuel power plants operating near Potrero Hill has taken some confusing turns in the last month. The issue may get even more complex in coming weeks, as City officials work to implement key parts of their progressive Electricity Resource Plan, which could site up to four small plants within San Francisco, possibly at local sites.

During a March 20 special meeting of the Potrero Power Plant Citizens Advisory Task Force at the Potrero Neighborhood House, City officials acknowledged that Mirant Corporation has filed permits for a major retrofit of its existing Potrero Unit 3 plant at the foot of Potrero Hill. This news came as a surprise to local activists and members of the Task Force, who for the past two years have been advising City officials on Mirant’s proposed development of a massive new 540-megawatt natural gas

fired Unit 7 power plant at Potrero. Located at Pier 72 near 23rd and Illinois Streets, Mirant’s Potrero Power Plant is the largest power producer in San Francisco — and also the greatest single stationary source of air pollution in the City. The aging facility includes Potrero Unit 3, a 206-megawatt natural gas fired unit, as well as Units 4, 5, and 6 — three diesel fired plants that generate a combined 150 megawatts.

Mirant recently disclosed that it has been negotiating the Unit 3 retrofit work for several months with the California Public Utilities Commission, the California Independent System Operator, the Bay Area Air Quality Management District and City officials. Mirant has already received approval from the ISO/CPUC for accelerated cost recovery for the estimated \$30 million retrofit, which would be funded over time by rate payers.

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S.F. General and Neighbors Continue Heliport Discussion

By Christopher Sabre

San Francisco General Hospital is struggling with major issues of changing demographics that are reducing the need for some of its services. The trauma unit needs a minimum of 1200 trauma patients annually to keep its designation as a Level One Trauma Center. S.F. General is also facing severe budget cutbacks. Therefore, to support its status as a Level One Trauma Center and to obtain a larger volume of paying trauma patients, the hospital is now proposing a heliport addition atop a 100-ft.-plus “Health Tower.”

If approved, the heliport would enlarge S.F. General’s service to cover all of Northern California, from the San Francisco Bay Area to the Oregon border, and would necessitate expanded trauma facilities and frequent helicopter landings at the hospital. The hospital estimates there would be a minimum of 1400 flights during the first year of operation. The rationale is that an enlarged trauma center would provide additional financial resources for the hospital is expected that a heliport will pay for itself within its first year.

However, hospital representatives are also telling the community that they expect a low volume of helicopter traffic. Hospital literature states that, at the most, there will be only one to two flights a day at the heliport when it is fully operating. This heliport would not primarily serve trauma patients who are injured in San Francisco. It is, however, a move to expand the role of S.F. General as a regional medical center. Hospital representatives say that a major heliport use would be to shuttle patients between hospitals, rather than to deal with emergency trauma responses. These and other apparent contradictions make it difficult for hospital neighbors to get an accurate fix on the facts.

At a public meeting in 2001, the hospital’s chief administrative officer, Gene Marie O’Connell stated that S.F. General did not intend to add a heliport to its campus. She said that structural limitations make it impossible to even consider such a proposal. A heliport at the hospital is not even a requirement to qualify as a Level One Trauma Center by the accrediting agency, the California Emergency Services (EMS) Authority. So why the about-face on this issue?

On March 4 of this year, the S.F. Health Commission accepted a feasibility study for a proposed helicopter-landing site on the roof of S.F. General Hospital. This heliport would be designed to accommodate choppers as large as the National Guard UH-60 (Blackhawk) medevac helicopter. The UH-60 has an overall length of 65 ft. and weighs approximately 22,000 lbs.

Neighbors of S.F. General are concerned about being excluded from participation in the feasibility study for a helicopter-landing site. In her letter of March 13, to Public Health Director Dr. Mitchell Katz, Supervisor Sophie Maxwell wrote: “I am writing to express my deep disappointment with the process the Dept. of Public Health and S.F. General have taken to outreach to the community regarding the Air Medical Access Needs and Feasibility Study.

Meetings with hospital representatives were characterized by the community as overbearing and lacking candid information. As of this writing, the hospital has not conducted a test of what a real medevac helicopter would sound like at a low altitude in neighborhoods near the hospital.

Hospital officials say that using the existing heliport at Hunters Point is unacceptable because intervening ground transport adds too much risk for patients. However, S.F. General is proposing the use of its heliport as a transportation hub where patients are ferried by ambulance to and from other hospitals in San Francisco and the greater Bay Area. Moreover, there is documented evidence that some trauma patients cannot be transported by air and must be carried by ambulance because of the greater risk in air travel.

Remarkably, one of the main reasons that the hospital is pushing for a heliport at its campus, according to Dr. Bob Mackersie, Director of Trauma Services at S.F. General, is that the air ambulance companies refuse to land at a location that would require them to have significant down time, causing them to lose money.

The feasibility study is relying heavily on emotional issues of possible terror attacks and earthquakes. Hospital representatives say that a heliport is necessary in case of a large-scale emergency, such as a terrorist attack. However, a chopper pad atop the hospital

(Continued on Page 3)



## Editorial

# What Should We Do Now?

Millions of us both here in America and throughout the world have been marching, walking, and sending letters in the hope that our voices would be heard, so we could help avert a war overseas – again.

The time has come however, when our voices were overwhelmed by the forces of war and hungry power mongers.

So, what should we do? We dreaded the road to war that President Bush was leading us to – and now that we're on it, what should we do?

We don't want to watch the news on television, but sometimes we must. Just the other night, while the set was on, I happened to glance up and for a quick minute I saw a face on the screen that I thought I recognized as my nephew's son. It was a very brief glimpse, so, I reasoned, it couldn't have been him (!). But, what if it was indeed the young man whose wedding I attended two years ago? Until that night I hadn't related to the parents and families of enlisted men who were sent overseas . . . after Vietnam I didn't know any G.I.s. I had let my nephew's son know how I felt about his enlistment, but he assured me he wouldn't be in danger. I worried what his bride might be thinking.

What the military offers in education was the reasoning for him to enlist – along with the allure of being a pilot. The purpose of military is to train to kill. The thing certain about war is death – and the orientation about killing.

Now our concern is about the reason for this exercise of vengeance and horror in Iraq. When millions of people throughout the world march in demonstrations against the United States' stance on Saddam Hussein and his country – our president answers: "They're entitled to their opinion."

Due to a rapidly declining economy, we've been facing monetary losses in education, health and general living conditions of the American people. We feel as Alice might have felt going backwards through the looking glass.

All the monies allocated to war to "save" the Iraqi people – what about us? And when the president says demonstrators are entitled to their opinion, does he care that the demonstrators are treated as "enemies," and sometimes jailed for protesting?

Please join us in a dialogue about war and peace and the future of America as a world leader. How do you feel about this subject? What constructive actions would you recommend?

— Ruth Passen, Editor



## A Lively Oak Suggestion

Editor:

I read with interest Holly Horton's (Director of Live Oak School) letter in the March Potrero View. I am particularly encouraged that Live Oak seeks to "enhance the neighborhood" and that "community service is important."

As Ms. Horton is surely aware, we have a significant number of children living on Potrero Hill, particularly those residing in public housing, who do not have the means for a \$13,000 yearly

education, despite it being "among the least expensive . . . in San Francisco."

I would therefore like to suggest that Live Oak enhance out neighborhood and extend its community service to offer at least one full scholarship a year to a child living in Potrero Hill's public housing. This would truly achieve Live Oak's goal of teaching their students "to develop the understanding and the motivation to make the world a better place."

Tricia McCarthy  
De Haro Street

*If you wish to remain anonymous, please say so, but all letters must include your name and address when received.*

*The Potrero View, 953 De Haro Street, San Francisco, CA 94107  
e-mail address: editor@potreroview.net.*



## GETTING INVOLVED

ROSES (Residents of the Southeast Sector) meets the first Thursday of each month with members of the San Francisco Police Department to discuss issues of public concern. The Forum takes place at 7 p.m. in the community facility downstairs at 1800 Oakdale at Phelps. Refreshments served after the meeting. Next two meetings: April 3 and May 1, 2003.

Potrero Hill Health Center Advisory Board meets the first Monday of the month from 4-5 p.m. at the Health Center at 1050 Wisconsin Street. All meetings are open to the public. Public opinion will be welcome. Next two meetings: April 7 and May 5, 2003.

Dogpatch Neighborhood Association meets the second Tuesday of each even-numbered month at 7 p.m., at 950 Tennessee Street. Next meeting: April 8, 2003.

PHAB (Potrero Hill Association of Merchants & Businesses) meets the second Tuesday of each month at 10 a.m. at Goat Hill Pizza, corner of Connecticut and 18th streets. Visit [www.potrerohill.biz](http://www.potrerohill.biz). Next meeting: April 8, 2003.

PHPA (Potrero Hill Parents' Association) meets on the first Friday of the month in the playground behind the Potrero Hill Recreation Center at Madera and Arkansas streets at 12 noon. Next two meetings: April 4 and May 2, 2003. This month a potluck Easter party will take place on Saturday, April 12, 10 a.m. to noon at the Rec Center. Enter through the side door.

Starr King Park Openspace Board of Directors will hold their annual meeting and election Monday, April 28, 2003 at 7 p.m. at the Potrero Hill Neighborhood House at 953 De Haro Street. Contact the secretary for requirements or see this month's Potrero View classified section. Volunteer for the Park work days continue every month on the third Saturday, April 19. The annual wildflower walk will precede this month's workday at 9 a.m. Contact Margo at 824-0471. The park is located along Carolina Street, south of 23rd Street (1200 block). The board's secretary can be reached at 647-2745; Address mail to Starr King Park, P.O. Box 880293, San Francisco, CA 94188-0293. Other volunteer opportunities are available.

Potrero Boosters Neighborhood Association meets the last Tuesday of each month at 7:00 p.m. (social time starting at 6:30 p.m.) in the Game Room of the Potrero Hill Neighborhood House, 953 De Haro St. The room is wheelchair accessible. For more information visit [www.potreroboosters.org](http://www.potreroboosters.org) or call John deCastro, 865-0669, or e-mail him at [president@potreroboosters.org](mailto:president@potreroboosters.org). Next meeting: April 29, 2003.

Potrero Hill Garden Club usually meets the last Sunday of the month at 11 a.m. for a potluck lunch in a local home or garden. Informal discussion will be held on a variety of subjects relating to organic, edible, or ornamental gardening appropriate for Potrero Hill's particular mini-climate. Please call 648-6740 for details. Next meeting: April 27, 2003.

— Wini Mann



## THE VIEW AT THE LIBRARY

If you are searching for a story that ran in *The Potrero View* a long time ago, take a look at the bound volumes at the Potrero Branch Library which contain every issue from the very first one in 1970 through 2000. Also at the library are unbound back issues from 2001 to the present. All these materials are available for use at the library.



TM Masthead design by Giacomo Patri

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# A Lion in Iraq

By Earl Tilford

*Writer's Note: "I was inspired by a very short piece someone I do not know sent me over the Internet titled, "PRIDE," which spoke generically of 19-year-old youngsters learning about the worst of life and the best of life right now in Iraq. Thus inspired I wrote, "A Lion in Iraq" about an imaginary Pennsylvania kid, some might refer to him as a "slacker" but, he's our "Lion in Iraq."*

He'll turn 20 later this year and he's a Marine Rifleman fighting in Iraq. His hair's cut "high and tight" and he's muscled, weighs about 150 pounds. He'd get carded in a bar. In a little over six years he'll be old enough to rent a car. Tomorrow, if the phone rings at home, his parents pray the voice at the other end won't say, "The Secretary of the Navy regrets to inform you..."

He grew up in a small, nearly abandoned, grey and dismal rust-belt Pennsylvania town west of State College, home of the Penn State Nittany Lions. He always wanted to be a Nittany Lion but he didn't have the grades. Some day, after he gets to Baghdad, when he's back in PA, he may take some courses at the local community college ... someday ... back in Pennsylvania. Penn State? No way. The past four or five years he spent too many afternoons "shootin' hoops" or putting a system into his ten-year old Camaro. He hung out in the evening. Studying was for geeks.

When he graduated high school ... May a year ago ... he got no awards. Still, proud parents videoed his shuffle across the stage ... his friends whooped

and somebody yelled his name ... he grinned, waved ... spun around, did a Michael Jackson "moon walk." His English teacher rolled her eyes, whispered to the Math teacher to her right, "That one won't amount to much. Why do I do this?"

"Whazz up?" "Fer swizzle me nizzel" The S\_\_ \_ rocks or he listens to hip hop...maybe rap. Back in high school, books weren't his thing but he knows what "get your sierra together" really means. He was up at 0600 last Thursday getting his sierra together, but spent much of the day donning his gas mask, putting on and taking off his chem/bio suit while SCUDs and El Samoud missiles passed overhead. He longed for rack time when the cold desert night closed around him, but his unit moved out ... headed for the border. When the sun came up he was in Iraq. Outside Basra he used a LAW (light anti-tank weapon) to light up an Iraqi armored personnel carrier. "Wooo Whoo" crowed a buddy. He grinned back a long "sweet."

One time ... just once, a high school term paper came back with a B- and his mother used a Pappa John's Pizza magnet to affix it to the frig. Mostly, however, his book reviews and papers were drenched in read ink. Later today — or tomorrow — or next week a helicopter could haul his broken body to a MASH unit dripping a different kind of red. So what if he can't write very well. If his rifle jams, he can field strip it, fix it, and get it back together ... in the dark ... "hoorah." When his unit stops to rest, he can set a defensive

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# Father Peter Sammon Honored with Street Name by St. Teresa's Parish

By Lester Zeidman

It had Peter Sammon written all over it. Sunday Mass at St. Teresa's church is normally a quiet weekly event but the Mass on Sunday, March 23, 2003 was also a special tribute to Father Peter Sammon. St. Teresa's beloved pastor who passed away one year ago, was certainly there in spirit.

The church was full with a background ambience of squirming children and the smell of candles burning. The Lenten ceremony told the story of Christ at the well and his conversation with a Sumerian woman with whom the Jews of the day would not have spoken. It is a lesson in tolerance with hidden meanings and subtle truths that extend to today's world in turmoil. It was certainly a tale that Peter enjoyed.

His influence on the young members of the parish was exemplified by 15 year old Emily Swift in her school application essay. "Although he is gone, his spirit will live on forever in St. Teresa's and in the hearts of the people whose lives he touched. One thing I know for sure is that Father Sammon would want us to fight for what is right, help those in need, and always, always have a smile on our faces."

A new painting of Father Sammon was presented and displayed to the congregation. His smiling visage will now hang at the entrance to the church, that grin of his that is now captured in oil to remind the generations of the future to remember him.

Everyone then poured out to the street with lit candles. As Gary Thomsen read the proclamation from the San Francisco Board of Supervisors, a huge yellow school bus inched down the street, air brakes squealing, interrupting the proceedings. It was later noted that the bus was from Junipero Serra High School, where Father Sammon first taught school. Again, Peter had put his subtle stamp on the ceremony.

Again, the proclamation was read and right before my very eyes, the name of the street changed to Peter Sammon Way. I struggled to remain calm. It was only one block of street between Connecticut and Missouri streets. However, it seemed amazing what two nuns, a telephone and a secret source at DPW could accomplish, along with a nudge from Supervisor Sophie Maxwell. Those who remembered my campaign to restore the street names of Potrero Hill were quick to point out the irony. I realized that I had become, well ... the Butte of a very subtle joke.

Father Sammon never weighed in on how he felt about restoring the street names on Potrero Hill. I like to think that he would have supported it and enjoyed my strange reasoning. He would have encouraged me. But he would really relish the fact that he got his name up there before I got even one sign changed. He would have smiled at that street sign. It has Peter Sammon written all over it.

Potrero Hill Neighborhood House

## Spring Flea Market & Bazaar

Saturday, April 12<sup>th</sup> 2003

9 AM – 2 PM

Potrero Hill Neighborhood House  
953 DeHaro Street  
San Francisco, CA 94107

All individuals, groups and associations are invited to come and sell new and used tools and other wares.

ALL PROCEEDS FROM SALES WILL GO TO SELLERS.

To reserve a space please contact  
The Potrero Hill Neighborhood House.

Space Fee: \$10  
per 6x10 space desired  
415-826-8080

Sponsored by the Potrero Hill Neighborhood House

## Heliport

(Continued from Page 1)

could accommodate only a small number of landings. What will be needed in case of a large-scale emergency is an expansive landing area such as one at a nearby park.

While all agree that a heliport at S.F. General would help save lives, it is also true that there has not been one case of a trauma patient being lost or incurring added injury because they were flown to Stanford Medical Center's Level One Trauma unit instead of landing at S.F. General.

Community members have expressed their belief that medical air access to San Francisco could be a good thing. However, they question whether it is wise to land helicopters at a site that has been declared unsafe in an earthquake. Does it make sense to build a helicopter-landing pad on top of a building that the hospital administration says is beyond earthquake rehabilitation? Is it expedient, safe, or even necessary to land choppers in a residential neighborhood with uneven terrain?

Medevac helicopters are large, loud and dangerous. They would fly low over Bernal Heights, the Mission District and Potrero Hill, taking off and landing at all hours. The most com-

mon wind direction at S.F. General is from the west, which places the hospital on the windward side of Potrero Hill. When flying into the wind on that type of approach, Potrero Hill becomes an obstruction.

Complicating this issue even more is that both S.F. General and UCSF are under mandate to rebuild their facilities to bring them up to current seismic standards. UCSF and S.F. General are now in negotiations to explore combining some hospital services at Mission Bay. A Mission Bay location has the advantage of not requiring helicopters to fly low over residential areas. Also, many of the medical staff at S.F. General have said that they would prefer to relocate to Mission Bay.

Neighbors of S.F. General have expressed pride that S. F. General's trauma unit is now considered one of the best in the country. It has been noted that S.F. General did not achieve that status because it had a helipad on its roof.

Emergency Room physician Scott Campbell told the View "The primary study is a good first step, but there needs to be further rigorous study with input from all stakeholders."

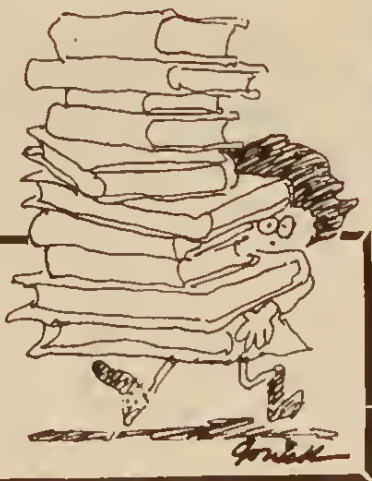
Christopher Sabre is a longtime resident of Potrero Hill. For more information contact: Jim\_beals@hotmail.com





LIBRARY NEWS  
POTRERO BRANCH  
1616 20th St. / 355-2822

Closed Sunday and Monday  
Tuesday: 10 am - 8 pm  
Wednesday: 12 noon - 8 pm  
Thursday: 10 am - 6 pm  
Friday: 1 pm - 6 pm  
Saturday: 1 pm - 6 pm



COME ONE, COME ALL

The 48th Annual Potrero Hill Artists Exhibition will be held at the Potrero Library from April 5 through April 26, and all artwork can be viewed during the library's open hours. As in past years, this exhibition is organized by a neighborhood committee and features work done by artists who live, work, or study on Potrero Hill. To launch this year's exhibition, there will be an opening reception (wine and cheese) at the library, funded by generous donations from Potrero Hill merchants, organizations, individuals, and the Friends & Foundation of the San Francisco Public Library. Come and join us on Saturday, April 5 from 7:00 to 9:00 p.m. for a celebrative evening, highlighting the work of local artists. Live music will be performed by the Golden Gate Rhythm Boys.



NOW WE KNOW

Many of you stopped by the library last month to see Peter Linenthal's exhibit of splendid photographs of the Grateful Dead (looking impossibly young) on the Hill. So why and when were they here? Thanks to Dennis McNally, publicist and historian for the Dead, we now know that the group rehearsed here for a six-month period during 1968 at the then (as now) defunct movie theater on Connecticut Street near 18th.

LIBRARY BUDGET UPDATE

Some of you have asked about the budget. San Francisco Public Library's budget remains stable, thanks in large part to the provision voted in by San Franciscans several years ago under Proposition E.

APRIL PROGRAMS FOR CHILDREN

- Join us on Tuesday, April 1 at 7:00 p.m. for an evening of stories, songs, and clowning when Diana Shmiana presents "The Book of Wonders." For children of all ages. (Funding is provided by the Friends & Foundation of San Francisco Public Library.)
- Infant/toddler lapsit, featuring stories, songs, and rhymes on Thursdays, April 3, 17, and 24 at 10:30 a.m. For children newborn through age 3.
- Evening films on Tuesday, April 8 at 7:00 p.m.: *Wings: A Tale of Two Chickens*, *Pet Show*, and *One Was Johnny*. For ages 3 and older.
- Encore! Another evening of films on Tuesday, April 15 at 7:00 p.m.: *Click, Clack, Moo: Cows That Type*, *Mole and*

*the Telephone*, and *Banjo Frog*. For ages 3 and older.

- Evening storytime on Tuesdays, April 22 and 29 at 7:00 p.m. For ages 3 and older.

For all library programs: groups, please call in advance for reservations.

COMING ATTRACTIONS:  
BOOKS ON ORDER

*McSweeney's Mammoth Treasury of Thrilling Tales*  
edited by Michael Chabon  
This short story collection includes tales by Elmore Leonard, Nick Hornby, Laurie King, Dave Eggers, and others.

*Any Human Heart: The Intimate Journals of Logan Mountstuart: A Novel*  
by William Boyd  
This rich, often hilarious, and disarming novel is the autobiography of a typical Englishman as told through his life-long journal.

*The Time of Our Singing*  
by Richard Powers  
The power of music in its relation to a racially divided family and culture is dramatized with unprecedented brilliance in this panoramic work.

*Death and the Jubilee*  
by David Dickinson  
Less a whodunit than a tale of intrigue and action.

*Rivers of Shadows: Eadweard Muybridge and the Technological Wild West*  
by Rebecca Solnit  
The author's true subject is the perceptual revolution of the nineteenth century, when the railroad, telegraph, and camera transformed the experience of space and time.

*The Entrepreneur's Internet Handbook: Your Legal and Practical Guide to Starting a Business Website*  
by Julia K. O'Neill and Hugo Barreca



BOOKS ON ORDER FOR CHILDREN

*The Great Ghost Rescue* by Eva Ibbotson  
*Gooney Bird Greene* by Lois Lowry  
*Saffy's Angel* by Hilary McKay  
*The Signers: The Fifty-Six Stories Behind the Declaration of Independence*, by Dennis Brindell Fradin  
"Slowly, Slowly, Slowly," *Said the Sloth* by Eric Carle  
*Adelita: A Mexican Cinderella Story*, by Tomie De Paola.  
Jensa Woo  
Potrero Branch Library Manager

TEN YEARS AGO  
In The View

CUTBACK SCHEMES SPUR COMMUNITY OPPOSITION

The first round of budget discussions produced the following proposals: only nine branch libraries left open, and those only for children's services; Muni and Fast Pass costs raised; city swimming pools shut down; cutbacks in clinic care throughout the city. Mayor Jordan appeared at a meeting of South of Market residents and caught serious flak from those attending. Jordan described an estimated \$184 million shortfall as a result of the state decision to stop passing on property tax revenues to cities but use them instead to meet the state's obligation to schools. He said \$92 million could be saved by cutting 2500 jobs, and \$46 million by instituting new revenue generating proposals.

MUNI WORKSHOP SET ON TRANSIT ALTERNATIVES

The Muni held a workshop on April 12 at the Nabe to discuss a study of transportation improvements being evaluated for the Bayshore/Third Street corridor. The Bayshore transit study will be completed by the end of the year.

CALLS FOR THE RECALL OF MAYOR JORDAN

Many activists who had supported Jordan in the last election found themselves calling for his recall because he had not been paying close enough attention to their communities. The present charter procedure calls for the president of the Board of Supervisors to assume the mayor's chair temporarily until the Board votes on someone to fill the remainder of the term. Supervisor Roberta Achtenberg proposed a measure that would call for a special election whenever the mayor's or a supervisor's office is vacated.

CHRISTMAS IN APRIL TO RENOVATE THE NABE

Christmas in April selected the Neighborhood House as one of its major projects for 1993 and will work on renovations to the Nabe free of charge. The organization relies on both its own workers and on skilled and non-skilled volunteers from the neighborhood to pitch in to repair and paint the exterior of the House.

KOSHLAND AWARDEES FETED

Ten years ago the San Francisco Foundation honored a founder of their organization by establishing the Daniel Koshland Civic Unity Award for individuals and organizations. Winners received \$1000 for their personal use and \$5000 to be used for the organization of their choice. This year seven Potrero Hill community workers received the award: Enola D. Maxwell (Potrero Hill Neighborhood House), Ruth Passen (*The Potrero View*), Jack Jacqua (Potrero Hill Middle School), Jon Greenberg (Rec Center on Arkansas), John Murphy (Caleb Clark Clinic), Gus Portocarrero (Potrero Hill Middle School), and Barbara Gregory (Starr King School).

AND TWENTY YEARS AGO . . . Concerns persist about Mission Bay . . . Mayor Feinstein joins the call for a "Jobs for Peace Week" seeking to reduce the amount of tax dollars spent on nuclear weapons and programs of foreign military intervention . . . In a season that brought serious mud slides to some places due to winter rains, meteorologist Mike Pechner assured Hill residents that because most of the Hill is rock, the rain simply drains off and doesn't penetrate and that as most homes are anchored in bedrock they would not collapse in an earthquake.

— Bernie Gershater



Potrero Hill Neighborhood House  
953 De Haro Street, San Francisco, California 94107  
(415) 826-8080  
Enola D. Maxwell, Executive Director

ON-GOING MEETINGS:

Al-Anon . . . . . Thursdays, 6:30 pm  
Alcoholics Anonymous . . . . . Mondays & Thursdays, 8:00 pm  
Narcotics Anonymous . . . . . Wednesdays, 8 pm  
Omega Boys Club . . . . . Tuesdays, 7:30 pm  
Employment Workshops . . . . . Fridays, 10:00 am  
Board of Directors meetings are held on the third Monday of each month

FACILITIES:

Auditorium for theater presentations, lectures, weddings, workshops, and receptions  
Bulletin board with employment and event listings  
Gymnasium and recreational space  
Meeting space rental available to community groups  
All services and activities FREE  
Potrero Hill Neighborhood House is wheelchair accessible. If you should need the services of a certified American Sign Language Interpreter, or a sound enhancement system, or a meeting in an alternative format, please call (415) 826-8080 at least one week prior to event. Potrero Hill Neighborhood House is a non-profit agency serving the most needy of the community with an emphasis on youth and education.



1915-2003

# Sana Goldblatt

A staunch advocate of peace and justice, but never a braggart about her experiences, Sana Goldblatt lived a quiet life on Potrero Hill for the past 54+ years. Before her time here, her life became a history of volunteer services in time of war.



Sana Goldblatt

Richard Bermack photo

Born and raised in New York City, Sana received her degree in nursing, and left for Spain in the '30s where she joined the medical corps of the Abraham Lincoln Brigade of international volunteers who became soldiers in the fight against fascism. At the age of 22 Sana was the youngest nurse to serve in the fields of war.

After she returned to the States from Spain, she married Martin Hourihan in New York and gave birth to daughter Susan. After her husband died, Sana and Susan came west in 1949 to visit her sister Virginia Padover, and decided to stay on Potrero Hill.

With Commander Don Thayer, Sana helped organize the West Coast chapter of the Veterans of the Abraham Lincoln Brigade (VALB).

In 1986 Sana and her daughter returned to Spain to celebrate the 50th anniversary of the Lincoln Brigade.

She was an occupational therapist, working in that field until she retired from her job at the Jewish Home on Silver Avenue.

Sana was born January 18, 1915 and died February 25, 2003. There was no public service.



Mary and Herb Wasserman in front of The Daily Scoop, across the street from their home on Missouri Street.

June Osterberg photo

1925-2003

# Herbert Wasserman

By June Osterberg and Abigail Johnston

Herbert Wasserman — artist, collector, raconteur, and gourmet — died at his home on Missouri Street March 15, age 77. A large man in every way, Herb was wonderfully witty with keen intelligence and a well-developed sense of the ridiculous.

He was born July 7, 1925 in New York City and it was not until he applied for Social Security in the 1980s that he discovered that the name on his birth certificate was actually Herby — the affectionate nickname used by many of his friends.

During Army service in World War II he was in the pivotal Battle of the Bulge. He didn't talk much about his combat experience after the war, but was an avid collector of military and an awesome variety of other historic mementoes.

He attended the Art Students League in New York from 1947 to 1949 and studied at the Académie de la Grande Chaumière in Paris in 1950. When he came to San Francisco in 1953, he was part of the extraordinary group of gifted artists who came together around the old School of Fine Arts (now the San Francisco Art Institute) on Russian Hill and found studios and apartments with cheap rents in North Beach. He was a founding partner of the Triangle Gallery on Columbus Avenue. Art critic Thomas Albright, in his book *Art in the San Francisco Bay Area: 1945-1980*, described Herb's late

1950s paintings as "abstractions that frequently suggested impressionistic views of the countryside as seen from the air." Then in the 1960s, after moving to Wisconsin Street, "he turned to a painterly style of urban realism," wrote Albright, "emphasizing dark, somber views of the industrial areas around the lower slopes of Potrero Hill and the Embarcadero." In a review of Wasserman's work published in the *Chronicle*, Albright wrote that he brought new meaning to urban realism and that his art had "gritty vitality."

Herb leaves Mary, his wife of 40 years; his stepdaughter Kathleen Marshall (Richard Drill) of Arcata, CA, and his grandson Jordan Marshall Koch, also of Arcata. Also surviving are his sister Shirley Wasserman Berkowitz (Sidney) of Highland Park, NJ; his nephew Jerrold Berkowitz, also of Highland Park; his niece Lynn Moscrip (Clark) and two great-nieces, Leigh and Lara, of Noe Valley.

Herby was a most congenial man. A wide circle of adoring friends and family will very much miss the pleasure of his company.

June Osterberg, a writer and editor, is an old friend of Herb's from the North Beach days. Herby augmented Abigail Johnston's collection of British royal family memorabilia and her husband Steve Fotter's assortment antique carpentry tools. Abby and Steve were lucky to be tenants of Herb and Mary's from 1978 to 1986.

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# Spring Training Sojourn

by David Matsuda

It was almost the best of times last year when the Giants came close to winning the World Series. It was almost the worst of times when key players and managers were let go or traded away after the 2002 season. And so it is now a very uncertain time. For while our Giants are the defending National League Champions, they take the field in 2003 without a number of the managers and players who were in part responsible for last year's success.

The cure for this bad case of pre-season uncertainty and angst, is a dose of colorful commentary from diehard Giant fans. And there is no better place to meet and gain insight from the faithful than Spring Training in Phoenix, Arizona; where baseball devotees flock to see the Giants and 11 other Cactus League teams play the practice games that get players into shape for the regular season.

## Play Ball

My wife Kristi and I settle into our seats at Scottsdale Stadium as the Giants and the Seattle Mariners take the field. As the Mariners score their first run, and unruly fans behind us bet on whether the pitcher gets a pat on the butt every time a catcher or manager visits the mound, I interview several fans.

"We saw the (Chicago) Cubs yesterday, and I was telling my husband

that their uniforms just don't make sense. They have this strong red color for their insignia, but a pale color for their jersey. Strong reds and blues go together and make a statement, like on the American flag, but pairing strong and weak colors says to me that the team owners are indecisive. Now the Giants on the other hand have two strong colors, black and white, which say either/or, and are great for Spring Training because you either make the team or you don't. These colors motivate the players to try harder."

The Mariners score two more runs, and the Giants start to pull their veterans from the lineup and replace them with rookie hopefuls. While those behind us laugh as someone is hit by a line drive foul ball, I interview the husband of the previous fan.

"Well, no doubt about it, Barry Bonds is great, but his personality kind of gets in the way. In pre-game warm-ups, he doesn't acknowledge the fans or even his teammates. That's part of the game too. He doesn't carry his own equipment. There is always someone seeing to his every need. Too pampered, I say."

"... So what if he doesn't sign autographs or isn't nice to the kiddies. He does his job, doesn't he? Look at those guys from Enron." Our interview is temporarily put on hold as the Giants score their first run and the crowd roars its approval. "A disgrace. Each and every one of 'em should be shot for not doing

their job and screwing the shareholders. But no one asks what kind of influence they have on the kiddies. Like Barry or not, he is a franchise player who does his job." And then in a more conspiratorial tone, "It's all racism anyway. If he was white like that \*!&@^ Jeff Kent, he would get a free pass."

As the Giants move to within one run, I hear from another fan who is courteously waiting for an at-bat to end so he can retake his seat.

"... Get rid of Livan Hernandez. He doesn't have a redeeming quality as a

shame they traded (Russ) Ortiz. I watched him come up as a rookie pitcher, develop into a veteran, and earn his keep. It's a little too early to get a read on his replacement Damien Moss. He's having a tough spring, and that worries me a little. And he isn't a heart and soul guy like Ortiz, so we lost a little chemistry in that trade."

Meanwhile, back in the stands, Kristi and I are riveted by a series of baby-faced Giants rookies who load the bases with two outs in the ninth inning and score the winning runs.

Later that evening at Maryvale Field, Kristi and I watch as the Milwaukee Brewers host the Texas Rangers. The "Brew Crew" and the "Power Rangers" are in separate leagues and rarely play one another, so there is rarely a peep from the peanut gallery until Rafael Palmeiro steps to the plate; and the stands erupt with lewd references to his Viagra commercials. Surrounded by Giants fans I am back at the oracle as the Rangers load the bases.

"(New manager Felipe) Alou is the key. He has to take over a team he's never coached before, deal with an egocentric owner, and foster cohesion between veterans and new guys." Fans around us stand and cheer as two Texas base runners cross the plate. "Alou has something (former manager Dusty) Baker didn't have, and that's speed. These new Giants may not hit the ball as far, but they'll take more bases than some of the slower guys on last year's team. This year is: 1. Get 'em on; 2. Rattle the other teams' defense by

(Continued on Page 10)



BASEBALL SEASON OPENS

person or a player. Last year when Livan won in the playoffs, he was boasting about being a big game pitcher; it was all about him. When he lost in the series, his attitude was don't blame me; the whole team lost. And these young pitchers like Foppert, Ainsworth... It's time for them to step up and earn their keep. No more maybe next year? (It's a

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**FIRST ANNUAL LABOR HISTORY WEEK** will be celebrated at CCSF Ocean Campus, Creative Arts Building, Room 133, 50 Phelan Avenue. Music, sing-along, poetry, screening of the banned video "Poverty in the Land of Plenty." Thursday, April 3, 7-10 p.m.



**THE SOMARTS GALLERY** will be presenting paintings by Denise Satter-Gore and David Lippenberger during the month of April. The exhibition will be a 30-year retrospective and a memorial for Satter-Gore, who died on January 3, after a long battle with breast cancer. There will be a reception Thursday, April 3, 5:30 to 7:30 p.m. For more information call 552-2131. Ext 7. The Gallery is located at 934 Brannan Street.



**ACTIVE SENIORS NEEDED** at the San Francisco Food Bank on Thursday, April 3 and April 10, from 10 a.m. to noon. Meet at the Food Bank, 900 Pennsylvania Ave in Potrero Hill at 9:30 a.m. for coffee and doughnuts. We will be helping to assemble, stock, repackage and label boxes of food. For more information call 731-3334.



**A SLIDE PRESENTATION** at the San Francisco Museum and Historical Society will feature Jean Rusmore, author of *The Official Guide to the Bay Area Ridge Trail*, discussing the background of the 450-mile trail that is currently half in place, and the plans for its completion. Rusmore will complete her presentation with a book signing. The program starts on Saturday, April 8, at 7:30 p.m. at the University of California San Francisco Laurel Heights Campus, 3333 California Street at Walnut. The Society's monthly programs are free to the public and no reservations are needed. For more information, call 775-1111 or visit [www.sfhhistory.org](http://www.sfhhistory.org).



**THE EXPLORATORIUM** presents *Code Blue at the Genome Zoo*, a play by Barbara Damashek, commissioned by the Exploratorium in conjunction with "Traits of Life", a new permanent collection, for eleven weekend performances, April 5 and 6, 12 and 13, 19 and 20, May 3 and 4, and Saturday May 10 at 2 p.m. The play is included in the price of admission to museum. Reservations are recommended. Call 561-0308 from 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. for reservations.



**NATIVE FLOWERS OF BAYVIEW/HUNTERS POINT'** photographs by members of the California Native Plant Society, Yerba Buena Chapter, will be on view at the Bayview-Anna E. Waden Branch Library, 5075 Third Street at Revere, through May 31.



**MORE EXPLORATORIUM NEWS:** Mathematician and artist Bob Burnside will lead visitors through a demonstration of "Geometricks", the creation of their own three-dimensional mathematical models, Sunday, April 6, from noon to 2 p.m. The Physics of Toys team celebrates Earth Day by exploring ecology. Create a toy, whirligig, demonstration or artwork based on ecology, Saturday April 19, noon- 4 p.m. Take what you make home with you.



**CALIFORNIA ACADEMY OF SCIENCES** celebrates Earth Day 2003: Rainforests of the World, on Saturday, April 5 and Sunday, April 6. Visitors will be able to sample sustainably harvested rainforest products, make tree-free paper and other rainforest-related crafts, view award-winning documentaries, and take a tour of a real rainforest with guides from Strybing Arboretum. Visitors who ride bicycles or take the bus will receive free admission.



**CHAMBER MUSIC IN APRIL** at Grace Cathedral: The Emperor String Quartet performing Haydn, Walton and Beethoven, Sunday, April 6, at 3 p.m., tickets \$25; Tanya Tompkins, cello and Eric Zivian, fortepiano, performing Beethoven, Schumann, and Chopin, Wednesday, April 9 at 7:30 p.m., tickets \$25. Call 415-749-6355 or order online at [www.gracecathedral.org](http://www.gracecathedral.org)



**NOE VALLEY CHAMBER MUSIC** presents the third of a 3-concert residency by the Del Sol Quartet, with pianist Eva-Maria Zimmermann, Sunday, April 13, 4 p.m., at 1021 Sanchez Street. Tickets are \$12 general admission, students/seniors \$8. For information or tickets call 648-5236.



**DOUG DOWD'S COURSE ON ECONOMICS**, will be held Monday, April 21, at 7:30 p.m., at the Modern Times Bookstore. Entoll now. The class will meet on the third Monday each month from now till September 15. It is open to everyone who will take the class seriously. No fees, grades or credits. Doug Dowd has taught at Cornell, Johns Hopkins UC Berkeley and San Jose University. He is the author of several books, including, most recently "And It's Each for Himself and God for All."



**MODERN TIMES BOOKSTORE** knitting bee with the Shizknits. Learn how to knit hats! Local knitting maven Shizknits will teach basic knitting skills working with a hat pattern, Tuesday, April 15 at 7:30 p.m. The class costs \$10. Needles and yarn will be available for purchase.



**THE GRAY PANTHERS'** April meeting will focus on politics and community needs, Muni fare increase and instant runoff voting. Tuesday, April 15, 1-3 p.m., at the Unitarian Universalist Center, 1187 Franklin at Geary.



**SEQUENCE YOUR OWN MITOCHONDRIAL DNA.** mtDNA, inherited only from the mother, is used by scientists to trace the evolution and migration of the human species. The workshop takes place April 29, 26 and May 10, from 9 a.m. to 1 p.m. It is sponsored by Bay Area Biotechnology Education Consortium and Applied Biosystems. Registration is extremely limited and participants must be 18 or over to attend. The workshop costs \$11, \$8 for member of the museum. Advance registration is required. Call 415-674-2870.



**WHY ARE JELLY BEANS SHINY?** Explore this and other questions about candy at the Exploratorium on Saturday, April 29, at 11 a.m. Take a virtual tour of a jelly bean factory, watch a live candy making demonstration. The event is free with museum admission.



**THE ROYAL NORWEGIAN CONSULATE GENERAL** and the Exploratorium present the photo exhibition "The Spirit of Exploration: Roald Amundsen's Polar Expeditions," on view in the Exploratorium's Seeing Gallery, from April 30 to July 6, free with admission to the museum. Amundsen was the first adventurer to reach the South Pole, and was the first to navigate the Northwest Passage.



**CONCRETE JUNGLE NOTICING TOUR-** a walking tour featuring the common plants found amid the concrete and asphalt wilderness growing up around the Exploratorium, will be held on Saturday, April 26 at 1 p.m., led by botanist Archie Wessells and artist Michael Swayne. The event is included in the price of admission to the museum. Meet at the information booth inside the museum. Reservations are required. Call 674-2870 by April 25.



**THE OLDER WOMEN'S LEAGUE'S APRIL MEETING** features humorist Gloria North performing "Don't Get Old, Get Outrageous," Saturday, April 26, 10:30 a.m. to 12:15 p.m. Call the OWL office at 989-4422 for the location. Admission is free.



**THE RANDALL MUSEUM'S SPRING FESTIVAL** celebrates the new Outdoor Learning Environment, 10 a.m. to 3 p.m., Saturday, April 26. The public is invited to join in the dedication. The newly developed areas take advantage of the Museum's 16-acre hilltop location overlooking the city and provide fresh opportunities for appreciation and enjoyment of the grounds and spectacular views that surround the Museum. The Randall Museum is a facility of the San Francisco Recreation and Park Department, established in 1937 and in operation at its present site since 1951.



**ST. LUKE'S HOSPITAL** needs volunteers to escort patients on Tuesdays and Thursdays and to assist in the gift shop days, evenings and weekends. There are a variety of volunteer assignments including clerical support, dietary/menu planning, Chaplaincy, magazine cart and more. There is a drop-in orientation for new volunteers the third Thursday of each month from 3-5 p.m. in the volunteer Services Department, first floor rear, St. Luke's Hospital, 3555 Cesar Chavez Boulevard between Valencia and Guerrero Streets. Call 641-6538 for application and information or e-mail [dancag@sutterhealth.org](mailto:dancag@sutterhealth.org).



**ROSENBAUM SPORTS WRITING SCHOLARSHIP** is open to Bay Area High School seniors and juniors who have written sports-related articles in their school publication. The deadline to submit articles is April 15. Three scholarships totaling \$5000 will be awarded. The first place is \$2500. Second place is \$1500, third is \$1000. Nominees will be notified of their status in May. The annual scholarship awards were established in 1992 by Lou Spadia, president of the Bay Area Sports Hall of Fame, to honor editor/columnist Art Rosenbaum's 60 years of sports writing for the San Francisco Chronicle. Entries should be sent to BASHOF, 235 Montgomery. For information call 352-8827.



**NORTHERN CALIFORNIA'S LARGEST STAMP SHOW**, Westpex 2003, will be held April 25, 26 and 27 at the Cathedral Hill Hotel, 1101 Van Ness Avenue at Geary. Show hours are April 25 10 a.m.- 6:30 p.m.; April 26 from 10 a.m.-6 p.m.; April 27 from 10 a.m. - 4 p.m. Admission is \$3.00 good for all three days of the show. Children under 15 and youth group leaders with youth groups are admitted free. There is a youth area with thousands of free stamps, educational games and projects.





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## Live from the Artist's Studio

Original artwork is hard to find these days. In most mainstream galleries prints have taken center stage while original artworks have been moved to the back room with hefty price tags. However, there is a great opportunity to buy original art directly from the artist studio at reasonable prices right here in Potrero Hill.

The Art Explosion Studios will be having a spring open studio show April

25 and 26. This is a chance to wander around the studios of over a hundred artists and rub shoulders with a future Duchamp or De Kooning if you can spot them. When you visit the artists in their studios you acquire a unique perspective on their work and an opportunity to get an interpretation right from the horse's mouth.

The opening reception is Friday April 25 from 7 to 11 p.m. Saturday the doors will be open from 11 a.m. to 6 p.m. The Art Explosion Studios are located at 2425 17th St. between Potrero and Hampshire. This is a great chance to start your art collection or add to it.

# ArtShow



## The Art Explosion Annual Spring Open Studios Show

Friday Reception  
April 25th 7-11pm  
Saturday April 26th 11am-6pm  
2425 17th Street@Potrero

[www.theartexplosion.com](http://www.theartexplosion.com)

## RIK LIVINGSTON

Deeply Profound, Philosophical Paintings by Rik Livingston on display at Goat Hill Pizza, 300 Connecticut St., March 24 to June 20, Reception Sunday, April 6, 2:00 p.m. to 4:00 p.m.



ABOVE: Chairman of the Board  
LEFT: Cat and Mouse

## New Yorker Exhibit at The Main Library

The first 25 years of the national institution known as *The New Yorker* will be highlighted in "A Wild Exactitude: The New Yorker, 1925-1950," a new exhibition from the Schmulowitz Collection of Wit & Humor at the San Francisco Main Library's Skylight Gallery, 100 Larkin St., Tuesday, April 1 through Sunday, May 25, 2003.

The exhibition chronicles the chaotic days of *The New Yorker* in its infancy, with its first appearance on newsstands, February 21, 1925, to the period after World War II and the end of the Ross editorship. With editor and co-founder Harold W. Ross at the helm, *The New Yorker* established itself as one of the most important and sophisticated magazines of the 20th century.

The books of writers and artists known to readers for their *New Yorker* style will be on view – from writers E.B. White and James Thurber, Robert Benchley, Dorothy Parker, Alexander Woollcott, John O'Hara, Wolcott Gibbs, Joseph Mitchell, A.J. Liebling, S.J. Perelman and Ogden Nash – to artists Rea Irvin, Ralph Barton, Mary Petty, Charles Addams, Peter Arno, Helen E. Hokinson, Gluyas Williams, William Steig, Saul Steinberg, and many many more.

Joseph Mitchell said it best when describing the common element of style among all *New Yorker* writers: "None of

'em could spell ... and really none of us, including Ross, really knew anything about grammar. But each one of them ... each one had a kind of wild exactitude of his own."

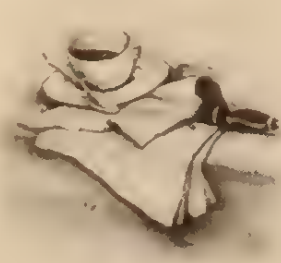
Materials on display are drawn from the Schmulowitz Collection of Wit & Humor (SCOWAH), which is located in the Library's Book Arts & Special Collections Center.

SCOWAH is a rich resource of New Yorker stories, novels, humorous pieces, cartoons, and biography. Nat Schmulowitz – attorney, bibliophile, and Library trustee – presented the S.F. Public Library with a gift of 93 volumes of jest books in 1947. Since then, the collection has grown to over 20,000 volumes in 35 languages spanning 400 years of wit and humor. SCOWAH is the largest public collection of its kind in the United States. An exhibition highlighting the collection is held every April Fool's Day to celebrate Schmulowitz's extraordinary gift to the City of San Francisco.

During the month of May, a companion program of *New Yorker*-themed films, both feature and documentary, will be shown Thursdays at noon in the Koret Auditorium at the Main Library.

All programs at the Library are free and open to the public. For more information visit [www.sfpl.org](http://www.sfpl.org) or call 557-4400.

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"THE FIRE" 1906



## 28 very short scenes about love at Noh Space

Berkeley High School Performing Arts Chair Linda Carr directs, choreographs, and appears in this ensemble performance piece, which, as the title suggests, is all about love. It opens at the Noh Space, 2840 Mariposa Street, on April 4. Performances continue Fridays and Saturdays through April 26. All shows are at 8 p.m. *28 very short scenes about love* combines language, movement, and improvisation to explore the complicated issues of human connection and intimacy. "This piece is about the complexity of relationships, the challenge of communication, and the need/desire/hope that love will surely save the day—the truth of that, and the impossibility of it," says Carr. Tickets are \$15. For reservations call 415-621-7978.

## Fundraiser for Brava Theater Center's S.F. Running Crew

The Brava Theater Center, 2789 24th Street (at York Street), presents *Against the Grain: Shaping a Peaceful Future for Our Kids*. Shows are Friday and Saturday, April 25 and 26, at 8 p.m. This world-premiere production is also a fundraiser for Brava's S.F. Running Crew, a technical theater-training program for inner city at-risk youth. *Against the Grain* is a theatrical and musical production by a multicultural group of women artists. Actors, musicians, dancers, and storytellers, directed by Ann Mueller, will present peace-related vignettes. Tickets range from \$25-\$75 and can be purchased by phone at 415-647-2822 or online at [www.brava.org](http://www.brava.org).

## Didik Nini Thowok at Yugen's Noh Space

Theater of Yugen's monthly series, Yugen presents, features Didik Nini Thowok, a cross-gender performer from Indonesia. He will perform at Noh Space, 2840 Mariposa Street (at Florida Street), Monday and Tuesday April 7-8, at 8 p.m. Thowok is one of



Didi Nini Thowok at Yugen's Noh Space

the last artists to continue the Indonesian tradition of cross-gender dancing. His performances combine the classical arts of Central Java, West Java, East Java, and Bali, and his skills as a dancer, teacher, mime, singer, and choreographer. In this, Thowok's first San Francisco performance, he has teamed up with local artists. Tickets are \$10-\$15 (sliding scale). For reservations call 415-621-7978, or purchase tickets online at [www.theatreofyugen.com](http://www.theatreofyugen.com).



# Performing Arts Roundup

By Sandhya Dirks

## Sherry Glaser's *Oh My Goddess* at Venue 9

Sherry Glaser's one-woman show returns to Venue 9, 252 9th Street (between Folsom and Howard), Thursdays through Sundays, May 8- June 1. Glaser tackles two characters in *Oh My Goddess*: the working-class hero Miguel De Cervantes, who escapes a life of menial service with the help of the Psychic Friends Network; and Ma, the great Jewish Mother of us all. Ma, who has just arisen from a 5,000-year slumber, tells her version of how the world reached its current state in this topical comedy. The *Los Angeles Times* calls Glaser a "bountifully talented writer-performer." Tickets for the show are \$15-18 on Thursdays and Sundays and \$18-20 on Fridays and Saturdays. Advance tickets are available through [www.tickerweb.com](http://www.tickerweb.com) and at the TIX booth at Union Square. For reservations and information call 415-289-2000 or visit [www.venue9.com](http://www.venue9.com).

## Shelton Theater Continues Musical Revue

*Are We Almost There?* now in its second year, continues its open-ended run at the Shelton Theater, 533 Sutter Street. Shows are Thursday, Friday, and Saturday at 8 p.m. This original musical comedy, written and directed by Morris Bobrow, is centered around the theme of travel. Topics include the pitfalls of travelling with friends to bad timing to SUVs. Until May 1 tickets are \$15 on Thursdays and \$18 on Fridays and Saturdays. After May 1 Thursday tickets will be \$19 and Friday and Saturday tickets \$22. For reservations or information about student, senior, and group discounts call 415-345-7575.

## 28 very short scenes about love at Noh Space

Berkeley High School Performing Arts Chair Linda Carr directs, choreographs, and appears in this ensemble performance piece, which, as the title suggests, is all about love. It opens at the Noh Space, 2840 Mariposa Street, on April 4. Performances continue Fridays and Saturdays through the 26 of April. All shows are at 8 p.m. *28 very short scenes about love* combines language, movement, and improvisation to explore the complicated issues of human connection and intimacy. "This piece is about the complexity of relationships, the challenge of communication, and the need/desire/hope that love will surely save the day—the truth of that, and the impossibility of it," says Carr. Tickets are \$15. For reservations call 415-621-7978.

## "Conflict: Near and Far" Is Theme of Annual Youth Theater Festival

San Francisco youth will premiere three original plays at the Seventh Annual Youth Theater Festival in April. The Festival is the culmination of the Mime Troupe's Youth Theater Project – an eight-week workshop in which three groups of high school students each create and perform a one-act musical play. This year's theme, chosen by the youth themselves, is "Conflict: Near and Far."

The Festival brings together 40 high school students from various youth organizations throughout San Francisco. This year's partnering organizations are: Horizons Unlimited and Teenage Pregnancy and Parenting Project in the Mission District, the Japanese Community Youth Council in Japan Town, and the Harvey Milk Institute and Gay Straight Alliances uniting queer youth from all over the city.

This year the youth are connecting the dots between conflict on various levels – personal, community, and global. The project is a chance for them channel their thoughts and emotions into a creative form and work cooperatively with their peers from other schools and backgrounds. For the audience, it's an opportunity to hear young perspectives on the topic in the forefront of everyone's mind today.

The free event takes place at the Diego Rivera Theater, City College of S.F., 50 Phelan Drive on Saturday, April 12, at 7 p.m., and Sunday, April 13 at 2 p.m. Call 285-1717 for more information.

## World Premiere of *Sub Pontio Pilato*

ODC Theater, the Paul Dresher Ensemble, and Erling Wold present this new opera at the ODC Theater, 3153 17th Street (at Shattuck), April 10-13 and 17-19 at 8 p.m. *Sub Pontio Pilato* (Under Pontius Pilate) is the latest endeavor of Bay Area composer Erling Wold, whose work the *San Francisco Chronicle* has called "virtuosic," and "utterly hypnotic." This opera, with a libretto by James Bisso, is a historical fantasy centered on the life and death of Pontius Pilate, the Roman Governor who sentenced Christ to death. *Sub Pontio Pilato* is sung in English, Latin, Greek, and Hebrew, by artists including Kerry Walsh and John Duykers, and conducted by Berkeley Opera's Jonathan Khuner. Tickets are \$20. For more information call 415-863-9834 or check the ODC website, [www.odctheater.org](http://www.odctheater.org).

## Strong Current at the Dance Mission Theater

Kirsten E Williams' all women dance company, Strong Current, presents *Underground—Behind the Faces* at the Dance Mission Theater, 3316 24th Street (at Mission), April 4-13, at 8 p.m. *Underground* is a historically inspired project focusing on the persecution of women from the witch hunts of the 1600s through the present day. *Underground* attempts to confront such modern issues as women's reproductive choice, the female identity both in the workplace and at home, and the struggle for peace in a masculine world. *Underground* incorporates Williams' choreography with live music and spoken word, poetry and movement. Performances will benefit Bay Area women's shelters and critical resistance. Tickets are \$14 with reservations and \$16 at the door. For reservations call 415-273-4633.



Faerie Birds at SomArts

## Dance Naganuma Performs *Faerie Birds*

Asian American Dance Performances and the Asian Pacific Islander Cultural Center present *Faerie Birds* at SomArts Cultural Center, 934 Brannan Street (at 8th Street). The shows are May 1-5 at 8 p.m. Claudine Naganuma's choreography blends together Asian and Western ideologies and styles. The performance will mix elements from both visual art and modern dance. Tickets are \$15 and can be reserved at 415-864-4120.

## Against the Grain at Brava Theater

The Brava Theater Center, 2789 24th Street (at York Street), presents *Against the Grain: Shaping a Peaceful Future for Our Kids*. Shows are Friday and Saturday, April 25 and 26, at 8 p.m. This world-premiere production is also a fundraiser for Brava's S.F. running crew, a technical theater-training program for inner city at-risk youth. *Against the Grain* is a theatrical and musical production by a multicultural group of women artists. Actors, musicians, dancers, and storytellers, directed by Ann Mueller, will present peace-related vignettes. Tickets range from \$25-\$75 and can be purchased by phone at 415-647-2822 or online at [www.brava.org](http://www.brava.org).



## Spring Training

(Continued from Page 6)

stealing bases; and 3. Get the timely sacrifices and hits that score runs."

After the seventh inning stretch, and the race of the sausage mascots, we watch intently as the Brewers overcome a huge deficit to win the game.

The next afternoon finds us at Municipal Stadium for a game between the Oakland A's and Texas Rangers. Under overcast skies and intermittent rain the A's jump to an early lead when Terrance Long hits a home run on the first pitch of the game. The A's score several more runs and it's their game until the fourth, when Texas rallies to win.

At the airport, rain delays leave me with a host of captive interviewees.

For one fan this is a good year.

"Yeah man, we're going to be great this year. Didn't you see Barry? He hasn't slowed down at all, and all those new Caribbean Basin players really add to the line-up." Another fan gave this more cautious assessment: "It all depends on Alou. He knows how to work with young talent and that's good, but he needs to pull out pitchers earlier before they get rocked. And don't forget about Arizona and Los Angeles. Added pitching depth gives them staying power for a stretch run to the play-offs."

So there you have it. The faithful are an overwhelmingly positive bunch, who stop just short of a sure thing prediction. Hope again springs eternal. Enjoy the season!

*Hill resident Dave Matsuda is a professor of anthropology at the College of San Mateo and clearly a baseball fan.*

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## Fourth Street Bridge to Close for Retrofit

By Corrine Wood

The Fourth Street Bridge spanning Mission Creek channel was designed in 1915 by Joseph B. Strauss, the leading American bascule bridge architect and designer of the Golden Gate Bridge. A bascule bridge is a bridge that opens to marine traffic with a mechanical arrangement on the seesaw principal, by which the lowering of one end raises the other end. It is a single-leaf bascule truss bridge, 205 feet long and 40 feet wide, with an overhead counterweight and a single trunnion (pivot) below the weight.

It was erected in 1917, and considered "one of a kind" in the state of California. It was listed on the National Register of Historic Places in 1983 as part of the Caltrans Historic Bridge inventory. Known as the Peter R. Maloney Bridge, it was named after a San Francisco police officer who founded the South of Market Boys club.

Since the Loma Prieta earthquake, city officials have known that the bridge has safety and structural deficiencies. Starting April 1, 2003, a construction project to seismically retrofit the structure to withstand a major earthquake of magnitude 8.0, while maintaining the historical appearance and operation of the bridge, will begin. The work will include replacement of damaged concrete approaches to the bridge and damaged steel and concrete members of the truss structure.

As part of the Municipal Railway's Third Street Light Rail project, light rail tracks and the overhead electric power contact system for MUNI to operate across the bridge will also be installed while the retrofit is being done. The

Fourth Street Bridge originally had electric streetcars crossing over it until streetcars were replaced by buses in 1940.

The seismic retrofit of the Third Street Bridge ("Lefty O'Doul") in 2000 was done with the bridge in place. The 4th Street bridge will actually be removed for about a year, so that the work, which includes asbestos and lead based paint removal, can be done in a more controlled environment.

The bridge was scheduled to be closed to vehicle and pedestrian traffic for about 18 months starting on March 28. Disassembly will take two to three months. The bridge will be removed for about a year. When it is brought back, reassembly will take another 4-5 months. The current schedule calls for the bridge to reopen to vehicle and pedestrian traffic in the fall of 2004.

The Dept. of Parking and Traffic has been working with the contractor, other city agencies and neighbors to establish and publicize the traffic detours that will be necessary while the bridge is closed. For anyone familiar with the area, it will be obvious that completely avoiding the Third Street corridor between Berry and Mission Rock Streets will reduce frustration levels.

From the north, taking the 280 freeway between King and Mariposa Streets will enable motorists to avoid the worst traffic clogs. Alternatively, traffic to Potrero Hill can use Eighth or Tenth Streets southbound. At least one lane of Third Street will be open in both directions. On days when there are games at Pac Bell Park, two traffic lanes will be open.

Corrine Wood is a resident of Mission Creek

## CANDLELIGHT PEACE VIGIL



Potrero Hill neighbors held a quiet evening vigil at Vermont and 20th streets on March 16. The global event was peaceful and hopes were high that war could be averted.

Ed Hamilton photo

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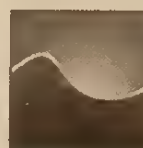
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# Bridges, Ferryboats, and Gridlock

By Chuck Elkind

Among the many joys of an ex-San Franciscan's return visits are the always-exhilarating views. Especially mesmerizing is the panorama seen while munching a sandwich at The Ramp in China Basin.

On an idyllic day, sailboats dimple the placid bay waters conjuring visions of yesteryear when there were no bridges and the port bustled with lumber carriers from the Pacific Northwest, cruisers outbound for Honolulu, and inbound foreign-flag freighters laden with commodities from around the world.

At that time, residents' Depression gloom was pushed aside by three major civic events: completion of the Bay Bridge in 1936, the Golden Gate Bridge a year later, and the 1939 World's Fair on Treasure Island.

San Franciscans were supremely proud of the new bridges. But the esthetic price came high as they made almost extinct everyone's favorite: the squat ferryboats that plied the Bay, connecting the Peninsula with communities in Marin County and the East Bay.

A 5-cent coin was the fare for transit to Oakland on the "Nickel Ferries." And on languid summer Sundays, families relaxed on the funky vessels churning the waters to Alameda's Neptune Beach. The crossing took exactly 47 minutes — no more and no less. This immutable fact set a relaxed tempo that prompted guitar strumming, card-playing, and singing.

Soothed by the throbbing ship

motor, passengers enjoyed the decor: clean white paint trimmed with narrow bands of gilt; and brass fittings kept gleaming by proud crew members. A favorite piece was the Seth Thomas clock with its pendulum swinging to and fro in precise cadence. In those slower-paced days, clocks served as ornaments as much as timepieces. Their transformation into deadline tyrants was triggered by World War II's relentless defense industry and military schedules.

Ironically, the bridges that nearly flushed the ferryboats out of the Bay have in recent years resurrected a number of the quaint vessels. This denouement has been brought about by the population explosion with an ensuing and aggravating gridlock, at the beginning and close of each work day, that clogs bridge approaches and reduces traffic to a snail's pace on the spans.

Exasperated commuters responded eagerly to the resumption of Marin ferryboat service. Since then, becalmed passengers pleasurably make the crossing with a crossword puzzle, a cell phone or a cup of latte.

Another group of travelers opted for ferry service after 1989's earthquake disrupted Bay Bridge use. And fans enjoy the leisurely passage to Pac Bell Park via the spruced-up craft during the baseball season.

Through this upsurge in popularity, the ferries chug merrily along relishing the reprieve from the nether world of "has-beens."

*Although he is resident of the nether world of Southern California, Chuck Elkind is no "has-been."*



Happy Birthday . . .

**HAPPY APRIL BIRTHDAY;** Randy Armstrong, 13th Amendment abolishing slavery in U.S. (1864), Pearl Berkelman, Brenda Berlin, Jacob Betman, Samuel Beckett, Charlotte Bronte, Charles Bryan, Rupert Burns, Herb Caen, Jacob Coxey's "Army of the Poor" protest march on Washington (1894), Angelina Chatbonneau, Sue Cleaver, Nancy Clifford, Congress grants citizenship to all born in U.S except Native Indians (1866), Commu-

nists required to register as foreign agents (1953), Clarence Darrow (1857), John Durden, Betty & Susie Elkind, Earth Day (1970), Duke Ellington, Ella Fitzgerald, Bernice Fleming, Lonnie Ford, Ruth Goldhammer, Gail Goldman, Sara Golec, Peter & Alice Gowland, Quinci Green, Kate Hilsenbeck, Billie Holiday, Judy Hughes, Sam & Don Henry, David Irons, Madeline & John Jaundzems, Abby Johnston, Kyle Katz, Brian Kelly, Paul Krassner, Ruth Maguire, Muhammad Ali refuses Army induction (1967), Addie Markoff, Sopenia Maxwell, Brian, Tim & Tom McWilliams, Salvatore Meblin, Charles Mingus, Edward R. Murrow, Tito Patri, Christina Pavloff, Paul Pelosi, Pony Express service begins (1860), People's Park planted in Berkeley (1969), Cynthia Robinson, Doris Roberson, Cheryl Ruff, Paul Robeson, Bessie Smith, Sally Tylot, Anthony Trollope, Raymond Walton, Bert Waxler, Medardy Westrum, Muddy Waters (1915).

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## Power Plant Saga

(Continued from Page 1)

At the March 20 meeting, Task Force members voted to write a letter of protest to state officials, complaining that they and other interested local parties should have been notified about the Unit 3 retrofit negotiations earlier, since continued operation of the 36-year-old unit could greatly impact the community — and overall plans for future power generation in San Francisco.

Retrofit work on Unit 3, which would take place in 2004, would bring the facility up to current emission reduction requirements. Without the retrofit work, the plant would likely be forced to cease operation. However, after retrofit is completed, the old plant will operate for an indefinite period — at least five years and up to ten years or more by some estimates. ISO, which regulates power distribution throughout the state, reported that retrofit of Unit 3 would not necessarily guarantee closure of PG&E's Hunter's Point Power Plant, a 41-year-old facility about a mile south of the Potrero Plant that is also a heavy polluter.

While many in the community had hoped Potrero Unit 3 would be phased out much sooner, as San Francisco's energy infrastructure is improved, City officials said they believe the retrofit work will be necessary as an interim solution to maintain en-

ergy reliability in San Francisco.

The plant would still be relatively inefficient after the retrofit, but City officials noted that the work would reduce smog-causing emissions. Further, they noted, the retrofit would allow the plant to run during a critical transition period when other cleaner power resources, and increased power transmission into the City, are being developed. If Unit 3 were to cease operations before other sources of power were available, it would force the continued use of several smaller peaker units that Mirant owns near Unit 3, which are even more heavily polluting and harder to regulate.

In another major development, City officials outlined a plan to install 3 new 50-megawatt natural gas-fired combustion turbine power plants, and one 50 megawatt cogeneration plant, at as yet undetermined sites within San Francisco. The plants are highly flexible and would operate much cleaner than the 3 aging diesel peakers Mirant owns at Potrero.

The four small plants were provided to the City by the State of California as part of a multimillion dollar legal settlement with Williams Corporation, an out-of-state power company that manipulated energy prices during California's power crisis of 2001.

The problem with installation of the new plants is that, based on its agreement with the state, the City

*John Borg is a member of the Advisory Task Force.*

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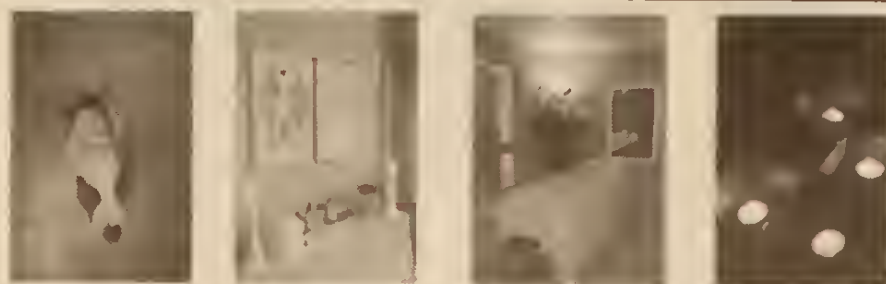
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With this issue, we introduce our new format. It took along time to figure it out but we hope you enjoy our new look. We look forward to new and more exciting changes in the future. We invite your comments! [editor@potreroview.net](mailto:editor@potreroview.net)

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## A Lion in Iraq

(Continued from Page 3)

perimeter. If attacked, he can switch to the attack mode in a flash. High school English grades aside, he knows the ac-rive voice, "Move out!" "Incoming!" "Hit the deck!" "Cover fire!" Words convey meaning.

He chows down on MREs ... "Meals Ready to Eat" ... tuna casserole, spaghetti and mearballs, chopped ham and potatoes. A burger, fries and a shake at McD's would be maxcool right now. He'll drink four quarts of water today and every day he's on the move; but he'd share his canteen with a thirsty buddy. He carries 20 clips of M-16 ammo. In a firefight, if the Marine next to him cries out, "I need a clip" he'll toss one over.

This kid puts in 12-hour days ... stateside He went 36 hours without sleep then fought his first firefight. What the Corps pays him for this year might cover the cost of tuition, room, board and books at Penn State. He might have learned some neat stuff at Stare College but the Corps taught him what he needs for today; like how to kill

four ways, field strip his rifle, use the LAW and how to stuff a wound, give mouth to mouth resuscitation ... and he wouldn't hesitate to do it ... to another guy ... no matter how thick the lips or whar color the skin. He knows how to jam a needle into his arm or leg ... not to ger high but to adminisrer nerve-gas anridote. He can ... and will ... cry when a buddy dies.

In 1918, his great-great-grandfather fought at Cantigny with rhe Army's Big Red One Fighting with the Seventh In-fantry in World War II, his great uncle rook a Japanese bullet on Kwajalein. His dad was in the Nam, with the Marines up in I Corps.

He may never go to Penn State but he'll always be a Nittany Lion at hearr. Today he's our lion in Iraq.

*Dr. Earl Tilford, a professor of history at Grove City (PA) College, has extensive background in national security, issues of terrorism, and military history. Recently he has been a guest commentator on many radio and TV news programs.*

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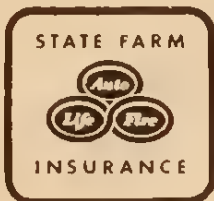
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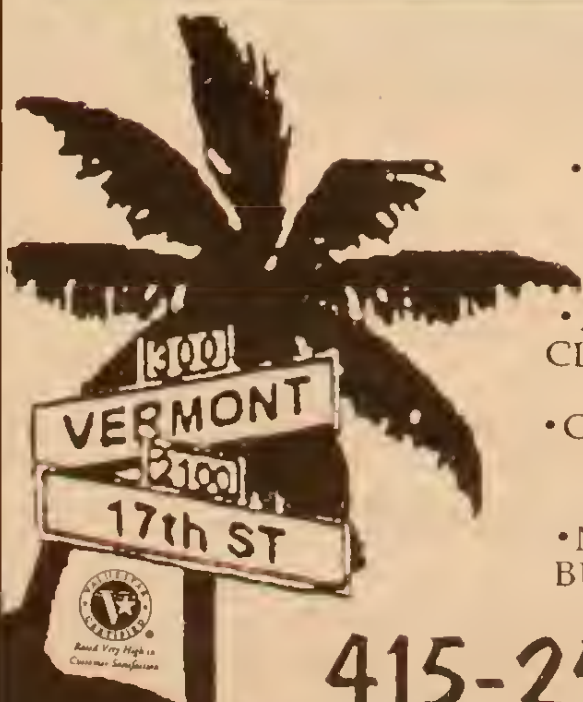
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898 Wisconsin  
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1640 20th Street  
348 Texas  
1345 De Haro  
559-61 Wisconsin  
544-46 Mississippi  
808-10 Arkansas  
(Twice)  
648 Pennsylvania  
573-75 Connecticut  
375 Texas  
400 Missouri  
357 Arkansas  
557 Vermont  
847 Kansas

835 Rhode Island  
131-133 Arkansas  
1136 Rhode Island  
890 Carolina  
831 Wisconsin  
225 Texas  
1346 De Haro  
357 Mississippi  
1137-39 Kansas  
1423 Rhode Island  
509 Connecticut  
780 Rhode Island  
1116 Tennessee  
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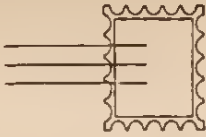
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570 Texas  
1362 De Haro  
2009 18th Street  
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2124-26 22nd St.  
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829 Kansas  
712 Vermont  
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884-86 De Haro  
835 Kansas  
559 Vermont  
909 Wisconsin  
1117 De Haro  
2128-30 22nd St.

370 Missouri  
560-62 Vermont  
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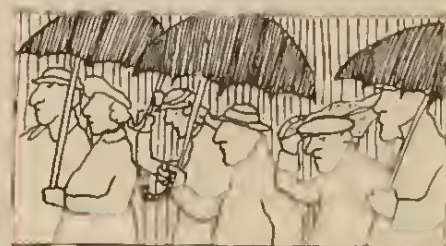
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**STARR KING PARK OPENS SPACE ANNUAL MEETING & ELECTION OF DIRECTORS.** Monday, April 28, 7 p.m., Potrero Hill Neighborhood House, 953 De Haro St., main theater. Three seats are up for election; term of office is three years. Requirements for directors: residency on Hill (within Cesar Chavez, Potrero Ave., 3rd and 16th streets); attendance at meetings; participation on one committee; supervision and encouragement of volunteers on workdays; and advocacy for the openspace within the community. Candidates must submit by fax (415-229-7123) or mail (Starr King Park, P.O. Box 880293, S.F., CA 94188-0203) a statement (200 words maximum) of their qualifications and interests, and proof of residency (driver's license) by April 15. Voters must also bring proof of Potrero Hill residency to the meeting. The League of Women Voters will oversee the election & count ballots. Featured at the meeting will be a slide presentation by Hill artist Margo Bors, an educational and historical display, and some activities for children. Light refreshments. Contact the secretary at 415-647-2745 for more information and for volunteer opportunities at the park.

**See Page 13 for April Happy Birthdays**



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